



THE GARDEN CLUB *of* AMERICA

## THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA POSITION PAPER

*The Garden Club of America supports independent, academic, peer-reviewed scientific research as the basis for formulating responsible public policy and legislation, as well as appropriate funding to ensure quality results. The Garden Club of America is a nonpartisan, issue-oriented advocate for a beautiful, healthy planet.*

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### NATIONAL PARKS

The Garden Club of America believes that our country's national parks are irreplaceable treasures whose value is incalculable. As important and meaningful symbols of our American heritage and culture, our parks, by law, must be managed by the federal government under a mandate of conservation stewardship. The National Park Service (NPS) is directed by the Organic Act of 1916 and the Redwood National Park Expansion Act of 1978.

Our national parks deserve the highest possible level of protection. While recreation and inspiration are important components of what national parks offer, NPS management policies make conservation of resources the first priority. The Garden Club of America advocates for fully funding the operations of the entire park system.

The Garden Club of America supports federal, state, and local legislation, policy, and individual action that address the following:

#### CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY

- Place a priority on conservation, education, and preservation in the parks.
- Foster biodiversity and the protection of native plant communities and whole ecosystems within and around the parks.
- Support adequate funding for plant scientists to inventory plant communities.
- Protect national parks from exploitation, pollution, and the effects of climate change.
- Support established parks, including native plants and wildlife, and protect natural and cultural resources within urban communities.
- Encourage ecologically compatible use of lands surrounding parks through collaboration with other land management agencies and neighboring communities.
- Establish wildlife migration corridors for species to adapt to climate change and to promote biodiversity.
- Uphold the President's authority under the Antiquities Act to move swiftly to protect land and waterways as well as historic and cultural sites.
- Encourage meaningful state and federal partnerships, when appropriate, to protect the nation's natural resources.

#### MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT

- Protect viewsheds surrounding national parks.
- Support the Clean Air Act to reduce pollution and increase visibility within parks.
- Prevent, control, and eradicate invasive plants to restore balance to park ecosystems.
- Support initiatives to promote youth education and participation in the stewardship of the parks.

- Ensure park managers have the tools and training needed to maximize their effectiveness.
- Increase public awareness of and education about the need to protect the natural resources found within the park system.
- Provide sufficient federal personnel for NPS programs by ensuring adequate funding of full-time and seasonal staff.
- Strive to meet annual funding requests and the current infrastructure backlog.
- Provide full permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965 and use the federal portion for its intended purposes

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